Equal Rights

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Doris Stevens

"In the capital city of Weimar there is a monument to the memory of Goethe and Schiller, two noble statues in marble of two noble men: the one looking straight forward; the other with head in the air; the hand of each touching a wreath of laurel.

"I would like to think that some day there will be in the capital city of Washington a monument in bronze to Alice Paul and Doris Stevens—the one looking straight forward, the other with head in the air, and the hand of each upon a laurel wreath, the only adequate award befitting the benefactors of the human race." — Dr. James Brown Scott, President of the American Society of International Law, in Equal Rights of January 20, 1934.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by SENATOR JOHN G. TOWNSEND, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUDLOW, Indiana.

Within Our Grasp

IN THE hour of a great triumph we sometimes forget the terrific amount of work that made the victory possible.

Even now, when we think of Montevideo, the adoption of the Equal Nationality Treaty by every one of the twenty-one American Republics represented there seems little short of miraculous. Doris Stevens herself admits to having been banteringly accused of being endowed with supernatural powers.

In between the lines, however, of the testimony of those who have recently returned from the scene of conflict and victory, one fact shines out clear and strong: that from the moment the members of the Inter American Commission of Women set sail for Montevideo, every waking hour, and many more while others slept, was devoted to one single, undeviating purpose toward which the members pressed with unrelenting determination. Dawn of the day when the Equal Nationality Treaty was adopted found the sentinels of freedom still at their posts.

Such devotion deserves the support of all who were unable to make the pilgrimage to South America. In order to fulfill the obligations imposed by the Treaty, whatever discriminations against women remain in our nationality laws should be removed at once—and there is no more direct way to accomplish this than through the passage of the Equal Nationality Bill, also known as H. R. 3673, now before Congress.

It is hard to conceive, since the United States was a signatory of the Treaty, that there could be any opposition in Congress to a measure which would carry out the Treaty provisions, especially in view of the fact that the United States has on several previous occasions stood for equality in nationality. By the time this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS goes to press, H. R. 3673 may have been transmuted into law. We fervently hope that this will be the case.

But if this desired consummation has not yet been achieved, there is but one thing to do: it rests with members of the National Woman's Party to see that every member of Congress, without exception, is impressed with the fact that his constituents depend on him to support this bill. The grit and determination which prevailed at Montevideo will perform like miracles in Washington. The goal is within our grasp. One more concentrated effort, and we shall know that the hard work, sacrifice and devotion of the women of twenty-one American Republics has not been in vain.

What Women Want

AMONG the documents of liberty most loudly acclaimed by the posterity of those who brought them into existence are Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence. In each are demanded what the framers regarded as fundamental rights; but the beneficent effects flowing from them came not only from the fact that the petitioners or declarants achieved their purpose, but also because the results were what they themselves wanted and had had the courage and wit to demand.

Similarly, Doris Stevens says that the reason that the Equal Nationality Treaty is a great thing for women is "because it represents what women themselves want—not men's idea of what women ought to want, not men's idea of what would be good for them." The Treaty is "based on a model drafted by a woman, Alice Paul," and Miss Stevens goes on to show how, step by step, through the efforts of organizations of women, such as the Inter American Commission, the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality created by the League of Nations, and other leading national and international women's organizations, it was finally adopted at Montevideo.

Miss Stevens is right. The most worth-while things of life are seldom handed to us on a silver salver; and, if occasionally one is, it is not appreciated as are those wrung by our own efforts from a not-too-willing fate. Besides, the struggle for liberty prepares those who attain it to make the noblest use of it.

It is true that the bestowal of Equal Rights must come from men to women, but the honor and credit for effecting the liberation of women, when that is fully accomplished, will not be due to the grantors, but—as in the case of the barons who wrested their freedom from King John at Runnymede—to the grantees who fought and dared and, in some cases, died for freedom. As Miss Stevens contends, honest, self-respecting women can not do otherwise but "depend upon themselves to get equality."

Brilliant Throng Fetes Doris Stevens in New York

THE Victory Dinner given in honor of Doris Stevens, on Monday evening, January 29, at the Park Lane, New York, was from every point of view a brilliant affair. The handsome ballroom of the hotel could hardly have accommodated with comfort a larger assembly, and at the various tables were seen many of the most distinguished men and women in the city. In an atmosphere of advanced thought and liberal ideas, the most forward group of Feminists in the world found an audience truly receptive of the accounting they made of the amazing achievement at Montevideo.

Doris Stevens' entrance was a signal for a burst of applause, the diners rising to bid her welcome. This, however, was but a prelude to the ovation she received when she rose, in her turn, to speak. Dignified, gracious and lovely, in flowing white chiffon, without a jewel, her crown of golden brown hair giving the only color note to her costume, she looked the ideal diplomat, the type of diplomat we hope we shall have when this turbulent, war-worn world finally achieves a reign of peace and reason.

DORIS was a tired diplomat, and said so, but there was no weariness of voice or gesture when she told, in simple language, the story of the historic achievement of the Inter American Commission of Women at the Montevideo Conference, the story of a revolution fought and won in twenty-one days, on a meager war budget of three thousand dollars. In introducing her, Inez Haynes Irwin, who was the toastmistress, said:

"We of the National Woman's Party think of Doris Stevens as a woman of manifold gifts. In that brief vivid interval of our history between the years 1912 and 1920, we saw her functioning brilliantly in all phases of the Party work. We watched her as organizer, as speaker, as lobbyist, as picket, as author. As picket, she went to jail; as author, she produced her brilliant study of the militant interval in the National Woman's Party work—"Jailed for Freedom." In speaking, she is eloquent, succinct, terse; in action, she is fearless, instant, authoritative; in both, she is inspired and far-sighted. In all that vivid, hectic period, Doris was a kind of flying envoy — a winged woman, soaring from one end of the country to the other. Immediately that the women of the United States were enfranchised, she flew on to the international plane. Geneva knew her—and The Hague, London, Paris, Havana, and now Montevideo. She was the leader in the great victory which was achieved at Montevideo.

"If I were a painter or a sculptor, I would like to create two symbolic figures. I would represent our beloved leader, Alice Paul, as a huge, silent figure standing in the dark depths of sidereal space, holding a colossal beacon which forever illumines those drear and icy and vasty abysses. I would represent Doris Stevens as a woman, crowned like Jove, with thunder-bolts. And every time the lightning from that brilliant mind strikes the earth, there comes into being a new liberty for women."

"WE left here," Miss Stevens began after the applause had subsided, "on November 11, with many good wishes from some of you here tonight who came to see us off at the boat, and some loving gifts which I regret to say have not yet been acknowledged. Among them I remember was a beautiful gilt box of almonds. These almonds were the basis of our first excursion into the diplomacy of the Seventh Conference. We fed these almonds on ship-board to members of the Haitian, Honduran, Venezuelan and United States delegations. I must publicly exonerate Prof. Hyde at once. He didn't teach me at Columbia to feed almonds to Hondurans. But that's the way diplomacy is. As a matter of fact, this gilt box of almonds was a gift from Florence Bayard Hilles, daughter of the United States' first ambassador to Great Britain. So, in a way, they were diplomatic almonds. However, I don't want to give you the impression that we had no other equipment. We had four wooden packing boxes filled with our reports on the appalling status of women on this hemisphere. Here's one set. We had, I've forgotten how many thousands of these in all. I know they weighed a couple of tons. We began to distribute these reports on shipboard, along with the almonds. During most of the three weeks' sea voyage to Montevideo we kept the delegates aboard busy at their home work.

"YOU know the sea is still considered particularly man's domain. You know the custom of the sea is that when you cross the equator for the first time, you are admitted into Neptune's Kingdom with due ceremonies. It happened that the ceremonies, when our ship crossed the equator, off Brazil, were almost exclusively in the hands of experts, advisers, assessors and others of the United States delegation. Secretary of State Hull was admitted into the Kingdom without challenge. But I was not only a woman, but I believed in equality for women, and they were afraid that I might cause a revolution in Neptune's Kingdom. Therefore, I was summarily sentenced to what Neptune's prosecutor called 'the works.' Any of you who have crossed the equator will know what is meant by 'the works.' Then a very symbolic incident occurred. I fished the more durable remains of an egg out of the lather which the royal barber had splashed down my neck and was fortunate enough to catch King Neptune smack between the eyes.

"International conferences are still almost as much man's domain as is the sea. However, as far as women being let into the kingdom was concerned, the Seventh Conference differs from all other conferences on record. I believe I may say on behalf of my colleagues on the Inter American Commission of Women that we hit the Conference at Montevideo square between the eyes.

"As I have explained, we went down with four boxes of documents, $3,000, pure hearts and very little else—and the box of almonds. We came back with two treaties, the first international feminist legislation in the history of the world!

"THE Equal Nationality Treaty which couldn't even reach the status of a basis of discussion at The Hague Codification Conference in 1930, was unanimously adopted by the Conference. The international rule on this hemisphere after this will be that women will have the same right to keep, to change, to recover and to transmit their own nationality that men have. We have now written into international law the fundamental principle of equal treatment for women. We shall see to it that nothing less than equal treatment for women is henceforth permitted to enter international law from any source. Hardly was the treaty signed, when cables came from all over the world, not only from feminist colleagues but from eminent jurists as well, applauding this new international law, which we had started at Montevideo.

"A word about the United States Government's 72 hours of vacillation before deciding to sign the Nationality Convention. The sudden announcement that it would abstain formed a unique incident in Pan American Conferences. For the United States to permit itself to be put in a minority of one on a question like equal nationality was curious diplomacy. *'Incroyable!'* said Chile. *'Inoui!'* said Haiti. All we heard from delegates was 'Utterly incomprehensible!' I have no idea whose voice led the United States temporarily astray. I know that the Inter American Commission of Women set up by the twenty-one governments of the Pan American Union for the purpose of giving the Seventh Conference advice on these matters, gave the United States excellent advice, and, I am happy to say,

it was ultimately followed. As I have just told you, I don't know whose advice prevailed temporarily upon the United States, but coming home on the boat when Secretary of State Hull and I were exchanging Conference experiences, he said, I thought wistfully, 'You'd be surprised how many people there are who think they know about nationality.' I began to appreciate the full humor of this remark when I got back here and read some of the statements which had been given to the press by people opposed to the treaty. I found one said equal nationality would interfere with maternity legislation, and a reporter at the boat asked me what had been done at Montevideo to improve maternal nationality.

"I expect to hear from some of you tonight what happened up here while we were in Montevideo.

"TO me there were two major factors responsible for the United States' reversal of position. One was the then unanimous approval by all the other Americas, which left the United States in an uncomfortable position of diplomatic isolation. The other factor was the militant and eloquent vigilance of the women of the United States, alert to make known to the Government the overwhelming support of women here for this Convention. That was a beautiful and inspiring act of solidarity for which the Inter American Commission of Women tonight gives profound and grateful thanks. You showed how to keep our Government straight on its foreign policy as you have shown before how to make its domestic policy responsive to equality.

"When on the 20th of December it became known that the United States had changed its mind and would sign, the delegates of the other countries became now utterly and hopelessly mystified. They hadn't been able to understand the United States' attitude before, and now they could understand still less what had made them change it. I have spent years trying to annihilate a persisting superstition that women possess supernatural powers, and I now found that I was accused of having them. Now it happened that the United States announced their final change upon the same day of Secretary of State and Mrs. Hull's reception to the Conference delegations. At that reception I was accused on every side of having white rabbits, or whatever it is that magicians have up their sleeves, you know — potted geraniums, bowls full of goldfish, bird cages with canaries in them —up mine.

"Before leaving the Nationality Convention, now on its way to ratification, I want you to remember one thing. The reason why this treaty is a great thing for women is because it represents what women themselves want. It is not men's idea of what women ought to want, not men's idea of what would be good for them. It is based on a model drafted by a woman, Alice Paul. It was first endorsed by the Inter American Commission of Women, composed wholly of women, and subsequently by the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality, created by the League of Nations and composed of the leading international feminist organizations with a combined membership of 45,000,000 women, and by eleven important women's national organizations in the United States. It was taken to Montevideo by women, there advocated and fought for by women. Women must depend upon themselves to get equality. No group in the community with lesser rights was ever given liberty by those who had greater rights. This is the way women will have to win all equalitarian legislation, national and international, until they have won their way up to a place of equal authority with men from which they can with men jointly decide their common destiny.

"The other treaty we brought back with us is one guaranteeing complete political and civil equality to women. It was signed by four nations, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Cuba, along with the Conference treaties at the closing session. I shall always feel that if we had had more time in which to work and to explain the full meaning of this treaty, we would have had more signatures. But we only had 21 days in which to do everything.

"You may remember that Miss Sevastos and I were arrested in Rambouillet only five years ago when we attempted to present this same treaty to the plenipotentiaries then meeting in France.

"THE adoption of this Equal Rights Treaty marks the end of a long epoch in women's struggle for emancipation. Equality with men before the law, which was the primary demand of Mary Wollstonecraft, our own pioneers—Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton — and our late beloved leader, Alva E. Belmont, will be for the women of these four countries an accomplished fact when this treaty has gone into effect. For them this fight for legal equality will be done.

"The signing of this treaty by these people shows a bright, hopeful quality of spirit. The men and women of these four nations have embarked upon a fundamental, revolutionary change in human relations. There has never been on this hemisphere a community in which men and women have been permitted equally to express their talents for life. The men and women of these four nations are not afraid of equality. They have turned their backs upon the old order of one law for men and another for women. Those of us who inhabit what we choose to call the big powers, like the United States, might well learn from them. The failure of the big powers to sign the treaty represents a fearful, an old, a sick, cynical attitude which says, in effect, that beautiful relations between free men and women cannot be created. The United States' failure to sign the Equal Rights Treaty does not represent the best and finest traditions of liberty on which this country was founded.

"TONIGHT our Equal Rights Treaty is in Montevideo, 7000 miles from here in a simple, colonial building, known as the Cabildo, now the Foreign Office of Uruguay. In and about this Cabildo, Spanish men and women fought for liberty against the troops of British, Portuguese and Spanish kings. Men on horses rode up its graceful marble stairway. In such a building, with such a revolutionary tradition, lies our treaty which, as we have said, although won without bloodshed or cavalry, is also a revolutionary act. To it the United States will adhere as soon as women of this country make an effective demand for it to do so."

It will be impossible, owing to lack of space, to give all the speeches that were made at the dinner in this issue. In addition to Miss Stevens' address, we shall therefore have to confine ourselves to excerpts taken from the speeches immediately preceding and following hers, reserving the others for the February 24 number of EQUAL RIGHTS.

Members of the Woman's Party had no difficulty in identifying the speaker who preceded Miss Stevens before she rose to speak. Daughter of a pioneer and coworker with Susan B. Anthony, she was eulogized by the toastmistress as follows:

"We number among us tonight a woman who is famous in two ways. She is famous as the daughter of her great mother—Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She is famous in herself. Before Elizabeth Cady Stanton died, she handed her torch to her daughter and that daughter has carried it, burning steadily ever since. We hope that one day—and may it be not less than fifty years from now—she will hand that torch on to another girl Stanton, and she to another, and she to another. We hope that as long as the feministic fight continues—and doubtless it will continue as long as women are—that there will be a girl Stanton on the firing line."

"MY part," Mrs. Blatch declared, "is to express the appreciation of the Woman's Party here in New York City for the work and victory of the Inter American Commission of Women. I will take time to lay emphasis on just one of their achievements.

"No student of history, no worker in the feminist movement, has failed to note the unhappy consequences for both sides in a victory postponed.

"For instance, votes for women was due in the United States long before 1920. The original constitution ought to have embodied the idea. Then it would have been an act of graciousness. Eighteen-forty-eight could have realized the enfranchisement of women and kept within the bounds of its rebellion. Above all, the sixties, in line with its vision of human justice and freedom, should have stood for equality. But at each stage there was postponement. What a waste of woman power! What a loss to civilization!"

Margarita Robles de Mendoza, Technical Adviser and Alternate on the Mexican Delegation to the Pan American Conference and Mexican Commissioner on the Inter American Commission of Women, who followed Miss Stevens, said:

"TO many of you here tonight it may be a revelation to know how close all American women are to the idea of emancipation, and how persistently and courageously they have worked to secure their freedom. There is no difference in this respect between the South American women and the women of my own country, and none between the Spanish and Portuguese speaking women and the women of this country. Our great victory belongs to all of them, to the gallant women of the United States, our sisters, who have shown us the way to liberty, and who have unselfishly contributed money, example and knowledge to quicken the spirit and minds of their sisters of the other republics of the continent.

"I pay tribute tonight with all the fervor of my soul to the women of Uruguay, who worked so devotedly with us. Paraguay and Uruguay were the only Latin countries that entrusted their women with the honor of being plenipotentiaries. They knew that they had to answer before history for what they would do with their power and they used it in behalf of all the women of this continent.

"FOR me the signing of the Nationality Convention is of high importance because it means the beginning of a new era. I remember that when some of the well-known internationalists asked me what proposals the Commission would make, I answered simply, 'Two treaties of equality, one on nationality and the other on civil and political rights.' They answered emphatically that to present such treaties was foolish and showed our ignorance of international law. I admit that I know very little international law, but I know that my heart is my best teacher and whatever it whispers in my ear I repeat with conviction, so I answered with great determination: 'I believe that it is more foolish of you to go into the middle of the ocean and try to stop the waves. The tide is high, women are awake, and they will write a new page of international law.' And they did. Whenever a master or a layman comes now to tell us that treaties on Equal Rights cannot be done, we can answer, 'Maybe it could not be done in the past, but it can be done in the future.'

"I remember one night when Doris Stevens and I alone, in an almost smashed taxicab, went from one corner of Montevideo to the other to speak to plenipotentiaries who were to sign the equal civil and political rights treaty. It was three o'clock in the morning when we finished, and cold and windy. Next day the Treaty was signed. We made no comment but her eyes and my eyes were full of tears. I knew from that night on that Pan Americanism will be completely possible and real when all the women of this continent understand each other and work together for the same ideals."

THE other speakers included Dr. Chas. Cheney Hyde, head of the Department of International Law and Relations, Columbia University; Srta. Minerva Bernardino, officer and leader of the Accíon Feminista Dominicana, who represented the women of the Dominican Republic in the Seventh Conference and sat as alternate for the Dominican member of the Inter American Commission of Women in Montevideo; Fanny Bunand-Sevastos, alternate for the Haitian Commissioner on the Inter American Commission of Women and Executive Secretary of the Commission; Dr. Eduardo Suarez, head of the Legal Department of the Foreign Office of Mexico, leading authority on international law and delegate to the Seventh Pan American Conference; and Jane Norman Smith, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party and former National Chairman of the Party.

Present Status of the Equal Nationality Bill (H.R.3673)

By Anita Pollitzer

THE Equal Nationality Treaty, adopted by the twenty-one American Republics at the Seventh Conference of American States at Montevideo, achieved equality in nationality for all the Republics of the western hemisphere with one stroke. There merely remains the work of amending the laws of each country in regard to nationality so that these laws will conform to the agreement contained in the Treaty, that: "There will be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality in their legislation or in their practice."

In the United States, a bill to establish equal nationality was reported favorably by the House Immigration Committee on May 15, 1933, at the last session of the present Congress. Last week, on February 6, this bill came up on the unanimous consent calendar of the House for a vote.

The proceedings as recorded in the Congressional Directory of Tuesday, February 6, are as follows:

AMENDMENT OF LAW RELATIVE TO CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION

The Clerk called the next bill, H.R. 3673, to amend the law relative to citizenship and naturalization, and for other purposes.

Mr. JENKINS of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed over without prejudice.

Mr. DIRKSEN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I wish to make a brief statement on this particular bill.

Be it understood that the substance of this bill was incorporated as an amendment to legislation which passed the Senate at the last session.

The bill seeks to do nothing more in its four provisions than to equalize the status between men and women so far as their capacity to transmit citizenship to children who are born outside the country is concerned.

We have this most anomalous situation: We provide equality of opportunity, privilege, and benefit for the seven very capable and intelligent ladies who are Members of this body in just the same proportion as those benefits and privileges are shared by the male Members of this body, yet the mother of a child that is born outside of the United States cannot transmit citizenship to that child, whereas the father can. A father at the present time can expatriate himself under the law. An American mother, however, cannot.

Now, it is a peculiar kind of inequality that amounts to a paradox in our citizenship and naturalization laws; and, manifestly, if we permit men and women to sit in legislatures, on school boards, in the House of Representatives, and in the Senate of the United States in terms of equality, is there any reason why this body should withhold from women the right to transmit citizenship, to expatriate themselves, and to give to their offspring all the benefits that they might at the present time derive from the father?

It adds nothing to an aggravated immigration or naturalization condition. It simply equalizes the status of men and women who are native-born or who enjoy citizenship in this country.

Having made this statement, if my good friend the gentleman from Ohio still insists upon his objection, it will be quite all right, but I do want the membership to have a definite concept of the purport and object of this measure.

Mr. JENKINS of Ohio. Without any disrespect to the gentleman, I still insist on my request that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I think the statement made by my colleague the gentleman from Illinois [Mr.

DIRKSEN] probably went over the head of somebody. This is a rather intelligent bill outside of the fact that it bears my name.

I would have no objection to the gentleman's request if anything could be accomplished by it; but from the practices certain gentlemen have indulged in before, this is the only motion they know how to make—let it go over without prejudice; and that is the end of it; it is just another week, another week, but time slips by and nothing is done. If the gentleman is against it, why does he not object? Then we will know how to conduct ourselves in shaping legislation.

Mr. JENKINS of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman from New York knows my attitude well enough to know that I have always been able to say no when I want to say no with reference to a bill.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. May I ask the gentleman from Ohio if there is any hope for this bill?

Mr. JENKINS of Ohio. I made the request that the bill be passed over without prejudice, and I insist upon my request.

Mr. KRAMER. Does the gentleman know how to say no and mean it?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection the bill will be passed over without prejudice.

Mr. SUMNERS of Texas. In order to make some progress on this bill, Mr. Speaker, I object, because it will take three objections next time to prevent its consideration.

Mr. DIRKSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 1 minute with respect to this same bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DIRKSEN. I wish to make this additional observation: Under the leadership of Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, an international conference was held at Montevideo in South America. It appears that all of the countries in the Western Hemisphere with the exception of the United States of America have conferred an equal status upon women in conformity with the substance of this bill.

The United States happens to be the only country that has withheld this right of equal capacity to transmit citizenship.

A bill that comes up on the unanimous consent calendar requires unanimous consent for consideration, and a majority vote for passage. When a bill is objected to "without prejudice," the result is not so helpful as the phrase would appear, for in that case the bill is passed over until the next unanimous consent calendar day, when one objection will again block consideration. Congressman Sumners of Texas, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, took the position he did to advance consideration of the measure.

The bill is scheduled to come up on the unanimous consent calendar when that calendar is taken up on Monday, February 19. Members of the National Woman's Party, however, are working with the leaders of the House to get a rule for the bill, so that it can be brought up again promptly, and will require only a majority vote.

In addition to numerous requests which have been coming to the Congressmen from their constituents asking the passage of the bill, members of the National Woman's Party have been making an office to office canvass. Practically every member of the House of Representatives has been seen.

Among those who have been actively lobbying for the bill are Dorothy Alden of Indiana, Katharine Dettling of Delaware, Adela Godwin of Minnesota, Elsie Hill of Connecticut, Rilla Nelson and Patricia Nelson of Michigan, Diana Simon of New York, Bertha Bass of Vermont, Franciska Berg of Norway, and officers of the Woman's Party and of its Congressional Committee.

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We are indebted to Rose Arnold Powell for sending us the list.

Speaker Rainey of Illinois, Majority Leader Byrns of Tennessee, Representative Crosser of Ohio, chairman of the Steering Committee; Congressman Lea of California, chairman of the Democratic caucus of the present Congress, and Congressman Snell of New York, Minority leader; have all declared their interest in the measure and given their promise to push it in the present session.

Letters and telegrams continue to go to Members of the House of Representatives from their constituents urging them to see that H. R. 3673 is passed without delay. The bill simply completes the provisions of the Cable Act of 1922, so as to establish complete equality between American men and women in the matter of citizenship for themselves and for their children.

An analysis of the bill as reported shows that the several sections provide as follows:

Section 1 deals with the children born abroad of an American father or an American mother married to an alien and provides that such children shall have United States citizenship, on condition that the alien parent is of a race eligible to United States citizenship and that the child, prior to its eighteenth birthday, returns to the United States and resides there at least 5 years. By the present law citizenship by birth outside the United States is derived only through the American father.

Section 2 clarifies the present uncertainties of the law so that naturalization of an alien mother will confer United States citizenship upon her minor children born abroad who are admitted for permanent residence in the United States during their minority. The present law appears to confer United States citizenship upon such children but the uncertainty in the law makes necessary the clarifying language of the present bill.

Section 3 equalizes the law for men and women citizens who wish to renounce United States citizenship upon marriage to an alien and provides that no citizen may make such renunciation in time of war and if war shall be declared within 1 year after such renunciation such renunciation would then be void.

Section 4 makes the requirements for naturalization equal for alien men and alien women who marry United States citizens.

Section 5 repeals certain existing provisions of law which are now obsolete and inequitable, but provides that such repeal shall not change the status of any persons who benefited from such provisions of law while they were in force and on the statute books.

The following organizations of women, in addition to the National Woman's Party, appeared in support of this present bill at the hearing last spring, or

otherwise registered their support: National Association of Women Lawyers, National Council of Jewish Women, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, General Federation of Women's Clubs, International Zonta Clubs, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Inter American Commission of Women, Southern Women's Democratic Association and the National Women's Medical Association.

Shall Women Work at All?

By Eleanor Roosevelt

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IN SPITE of all that is written and all that is said on the subject of "the married woman working" this question comes up in letters and in conversation day after day. Why not go to the root of the matter and put the question, "Shall women work at all?"

The first inhabitants of this country that we know much about were Indians. Among them women did all the hard work. The Indian brave deigned to bring in some food, which he could hunt with pleasure and ease, but when it came to tilling the soil and producing anything which required hard work and patience, that was left entirely to the women!

When our own forefathers landed in this country and began to take the land away from the Indians, some of the women worked inside the house, but a great many women worked in the fields beside the men. They had to shoot as well as the men, for many a time the Indians swooped down upon them when the men were far away. They bore hardships in many ways far greater than the men. If services rendered by women are to be counted according to the numbers who gave their lives for the establishment of this nation of ours on this continent, undoubtedly the women rate first place.

There was no question in those days as to what kind of work women did. They did whatever they could do and to the limit of their ability and strength. Then the pioneer days were over and there was less need for women in the fields, but there was still great need for them in every home and every home was a factory. As long as that need existed the women stayed in the factory home and worked as hard as any man outside the home. There was less knowledge of hygiene, and more children had to be borne in order to increase the population.

There was always room in every home for the unmarried female member of the family who became the mother's helper and frequently the drudge of the household. Sometimes her position was a pleasant one, but to be a spinster during those days was not an enviable position or state of being and the aunt or cousin who lived on the munificence of a brother or brother-in-law earned well whatever she received.

Now the machine age and modern invention have done to the home what they have done to industry. Women have adapted themselves to the needs of the day and they are now going out into the business and professional world to earn their own livings or to supplement the earnings of the men. Sometimes the woman works, not because of necessity from the standpoint of money needed in the home, but because of urge to work. Being denied this urge might warp the personality in much the same way that being a spinster warped the personality of many an eighteenth century aunt or cousin!

Where the women are fully occupied at home, you do not hear of their going outside the home. Where they are not, it is a waste to have their potentialities turned exclusively to golf and bridge and kindred pursuits.

If for the moment we wish to say to all individuals, both men and women, "You must give up earning anything beyond what you actually need for existence and for the moment remain idle because there is not enough work in the world to give people more than the necessities of life," very well then, but that must be said to men and women alike.

It seems to me that in this progressive country of ours there will be little satisfaction with that attitude as a permanent one and that the brains of men and women will be busy devising ways for new work where the satisfaction of work may be enjoyed by men and women alike. The fruits of this work may through better methods of distribution eventually mean for our people richer and fuller lives.

Press Comment

Doris Stevens Lauds Susan B. Anthony

The Baltimore American, February 11, 1934.

THE one hundred and fourteenth birthday of the late Susan B. Anthony, political emancipator of American women, will be observed in a brilliant birthday celebration Thursday night in the Alcazar, when women from throughout the State gather to pay her homage.

More than 1,000 representatives of feminine organizations in Maryland are expected to attend the fete, which is being arranged by Sophie K. Nordenholz, general chairman. The dinner is scheduled to begin at 7 P. M.

Miss Anthony dedicated the major part of her life to the struggle for a political franchise for American women, and is credited in history as being the mother of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Heading a brilliant array of speakers who are expected to laud her achievements are Miss Doris Stevens of New York, Chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, who recently returned from the conference held in Montevideo.

Hero Medal Won By 16-Year-Old Girl

Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Ill., January 6, 1934.

MARY MARGARET SEARS, who lives with her parents near the very north edge of Indianapolis, has swum the waters of White River many times in the 16 years of her life. With her two brothers, who are expert swimmers, she has enjoyed many hours in the river. Last October 1 she went into these same waters and saved the life of one who was in imminent danger of being drowned. For her ability and courage on this occasion when she saved a life and kept a picnic from turning into a tragedy, *Prairie Farmer* has awarded its hero medal to Mary Margaret Sears.

They were all having a big steak roast at the home of Edward Hunter, secretary of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. This beautiful home is located on the banks of the White River, above the dam which makes the river broad and deep. The men were down-stream gathering driftwood for the steak fire. The women were busy with preparations around the yard. Mary Margaret was helping, and she had a big tray of dishes which she was carrying to the tables.

From the river there came a piercing cry for help. Far across the river—at least 300 feet from the near shore—a motor boat had upturned and a woman was seen desperately struggling to keep from going under in the swirling waters of the swollen stream. Mary Margaret dropped

her tray of dishes with a clatter, and started for the river on a dead run. She threw off her dress as she ran and kicked off her shoes so that when she hit the water in a long, straight dive from the Hunter pier, she was no more handicapped than she would have been had she had on a conventional bathing suit. Using all the speed with which she has won swimming races in the White River, she tore through the 100 yards of chilling water and arrived at the side of Miss Mary Boring, the woman in distress, in an incredibly short time. There she kept Miss Boring afloat until two men came along in a motor boat and took the victim of the mishap from the water.

As soon as she saw that Miss Boring was safely aboard the boat, Mary Margaret turned and swam back to the Hunter pier, where she was hustled into the house, along with Miss Boring. Neither of them suffered bad results from their sudden exposure to the cold waters and the danger of being drowned.

Mrs. Edward Hunter, hostess at the picnic, relates that there was no moment of indecision or hesitation on the part of the little heroine. She heard the cry from the river—a glance told her that someone was in danger—and she was off like a streak before any of the other women could suggest other methods of rescue. Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Ted C. Brown and Mrs. Fred Fitchey, who witnessed the rescue, are all strong in their praise of this high school girl, whom *Prairie Farmer* takes pleasure in honoring with its Hero Medal Award.

As Strong As Any Man

The (Baltimore) Evening Sun, January 30, 1934.

CADIZ, OHIO, Jan. 30 (U.P.) —Ida Mae Stull, deposed "Amazon of the coal pits," told the world today that she's as strong as any man and has as much right to work in the mines.

The fact that the State and the statutes didn't agree with her cut no timber with the brawny 34-year-old Miss Stull, who has worked in the pits since she was 12 and has nothing but contempt for "laws and such," which prevent a woman from earning an honest living.

"It's the muscle that counts," Ida Mae said. "I've never had any book learning, but I can load as much coal as any man in Ohio. I feel like taking a pick handle to those Columbus fellers. I could do it, too."

Miss Stull gave every evidence of being able to do just that as she tramped heavily about her kitchen, to which she was banished when Andy Mullen, mine inspector, found her working in the Wolfe mine near Cadiz.

Ida Mae keeps house for Harry J. Wolfe, 65, owner of the mine, and for years has helped him work the pit. She dug a well and a cistern and grew 200 bushels of potatoes in her spare time last year.

"Why shouldn't I work in the mine?" she demanded. "I've been handling a pick and shovel for twenty-two years. I helped my dad open his mine, I cut props, grubbed out entries, loaded coal. I've shot it down and I've hauled it out—and now them men tell me I'm not made for coal mining."

Her attention was called to the Ohio laws prohibiting the employment of females in "manual labor."

"Oh, poof! Them laws!" Miss Stull ejaculated. "How about diggin' in a garden? How about totin' 100-pound sacks of spuds around? Look at this house!"

The house is a one-story, unpainted frame building in "Hell's Half Acre," outside Cadiz.

"Harry and I built this house with our own hands. It cost us $500 to build, and there's still a $300 mortgage on it. By loading five tons of coal a day all this year I could just about earn that much.

"I don't guess there's a law saying a farm woman can't help her old man with the crops."

Miss Stull has nothing but contempt for the "baby work" around a house, except as a "sort of side line."

"My land, I don't know what to do with myself. I wasn't cut out to mend clothes and wash dishes and cook. I'm a coal miner, and I've a good mind to go right back to the pit and start working."

News from the Field

Present "Trial of Susan B. Anthony"

IN commemoration of the birthday anniversary of Susan B. Anthony, February 15, the Susan B. Anthony Foundation presented an interesting program on the eve of the anniversary at All Souls' Unitarian Church in Washington, D. C. Anna E. Hendley, honorary president, was chairman of arrangements.

Dr. Ulysses G. B. Pierce offered the invocation. Tributes to the memory of Susan B. Anthony were paid by many national and local organizations. The local Federation of Women's Clubs was represented by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, its President; the Washington College of Law by Dean Grace Hay Riley; the National Woman's Party by Anita Pollitzer, Vice-Chairman; the Teachers' Association by Mrs. W. K. Dowe; the League of Women Voters by Mrs. Richard W. Hogue, President; the W. C. T. U. by its President, Mrs. W. H. Wadleigh; the Anti-Slavery Society by Mary Church Terrell. Personal reminiscences of Miss Anthony were given by John Francis, Jr., and Charles S. Baker. William Charles Grace delivered an address, and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung by Helen Newmeyer Perry, accompanied by Marjorie Davis.

A special feature of the evening was "The Trial of Susan B. Anthony for Voting," presented under the direction of Marie Moore Forrest, assisted by Mabel Van Dyke.

The cast of characters was composed of: Miss Anthony, Mabel Owen Wilcox; Judge Hunt, William E. Bryant; Judge Selden, Elie Edson; District Attorney, John Sikken; the jury, Paul Starkweather, James W. McGuire and Dr. Bartlett B. J. James; women at the trial, Ada Louise Townsend, Ada Van Loon MacGee, Lucy Cooper Shaw, Marie H. Heath, Rebecca L. Blaine, Margaret Anthony and Mary L. Willis. The ushers were Eleanor Dawkins, Harriet Wheeler, Katherine Eneix, Irene Scott and Winona Baker.

The Great Emancipator

"SUSAN B. ANTHONY WEEK" culminated in Baltimore with the celebration Thursday night of a Susan B. Anthony Birthday Dinner at the Alcazar, attended by many of the city's outstanding men and women. Addresses were made by Madame Nour Hamada Bey of Beirut, Syria, and Doris Stevens. The former spoke of the great progress made by the women of the East in recent years in improving their status and the latter of the Montevideo victory. They and the other speakers joined in the tribute to the great Emancipator, Susan B. Anthony.

The affair was held under the auspices of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party and is to be repeated annually. A feature of the program for the "Week" was a beautifully arranged and decorated window at the Enoch Pratt Public Library. The window contained mementos of the Great Susan, including a bound volume of "The Revolution," her own publication.

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